

Kentucky Teen Court Program

Juvenile Justice Oversight Council Meeting August 12, 2019

Presented by:

Honorable Karen Thomas

Chief Regional District Judge, 16th Judicial District
Billy Stover

Program Coordinator, AOC, Family & Juvenile Services

Kentucky Teen Court Program

- Located within Administrative Office of the Courts'
 Department of Family and Juvenile Services- provide state level coordination which includes training, technical assistance, and supplies
- Administered in 20 counties- judicially led with local coordinator support (paid with small stipend if non-KCOJ employee)
- Utilized through the Court Designated Worker Program as a referral program for diverted youth







BEGAN IN 1992, AS ONE OF
MANY LAW-RELATED
EDUCATION PROGRAMS
OFFERED BY THE
KENTUCKY COURT OF
JUSTICE

ALLOWS YOUTH THE
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF A LESS
FORMAL COURT PROCESS
CARRIED OUT BY THEIR
PEERS

CASES ARE PRESENTED IN LOCAL COURTHOUSES UNDER STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY

Teen Court

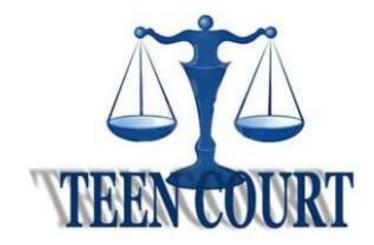




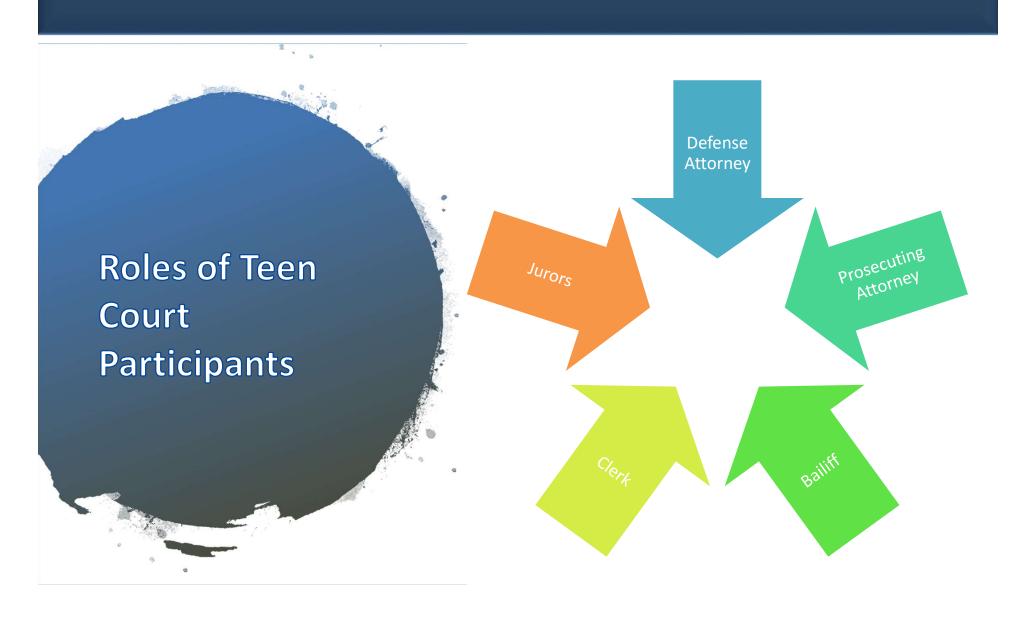
Teen Court

- Judge
- Coordinator
- Local Attorneys
- School Officials
- Court Designated Worker

5 Training
Sessions and
Swearing-In
Ceremony



• Requirements





Teen Court
Procedures

Opening Statements

Direct-Examination

Cross-Examination Closing Arguments

Jury Deliberation



Constructive Sentencing Options

- Teen Court Jury Duty
- Workshops
- Community Service
- Service Learning
- Apology Letter

Types of Teen Court Cases Assault

Criminal Mischief

Criminal Trespassing

Disorderly Conduct

Harassment

Possession of Marijuana

Theft by Unlawful Taking

Terroristic Threatening

01

Reduce repeat offenses

02

Impact the attitudes of youth toward law enforcement, society and themselves

03

Hold youth accountable

04

Increase youths understanding of how their behavior affects others

Goals of Teen Court



Benefits for Teen Court Participants

- Resume
- College Application
- Giving back to community
- Learn about the Law and Judicial System
- Meet new friends
- Public speaking
- Think fast on your feet
- References
- Fun
- #1 reason ...

Administrative Office of the Courts

Benefits for juvenile offenders



Part of the diversion process



Judged by their peers



Interaction with peers



Positive peer pressure



Kept off record



Public Complaints	
Formal Court Ref – Co Atty Req	1
Successful Diversion	168
Unsuccessful Diversion	6
Total	175
Status Complaints	
Successful Diversion	6
Total	6
Grand Total	181



2018-2019	Teen Court	Sites
Boyd County	Bullitt County	Caldwell County
Carroll County	Carter County	Fayette County
Hardin County	Lyon County	Mason County
Meade County	Northern KY	Pendleton County
Scott County	Shelby County	Woodford County

2019-2020	POTENTIAL	Teen Court Sites
Breathitt	Franklin	Garrard
County	County	County
Jefferson County	Knox County	Laurel County
Livingston	Marshall	Rowan
County	County	County

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Administrative Office of the Courts

Thank you for your time and ATTENTION

Questions?